

REMARKS:

I. Introduction

In the Office Action mailed on September 12, 2007, the Examiner rejected claims 1 to 17 and allowed claims 18 to 20. The present amendment cancels no claims, amends claims 1 and 10, and adds no new claims. Accordingly, claims 1 to 20 remain pending in this application.

II. Claim Rejections Based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

(a) The Examiner rejected claims 1 to 9 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reasoner et al. (US 6,230,579) in view of Osborne (US 5,277,077). The Examiner stated that "independent claims 1 and 10 do not recite the language 'a primary detent assembly' and 'a secondary detent assembly'."

Independent claim 1, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitations of "a detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions" and "a secondary detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions." No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 1. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

(b) The Examiner rejected claims 10 to 15 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reasoner et al. (US 6,230,579) in view of Kataumi (US 5,445,046). The Examiner stated that "since the claim does not require two detent assemblies the combination of Reasoner in view of Kataumi regarding claim 10 is proper."

Independent claim 10, and claims dependent therefrom, are allowable because they each include the limitations of "a detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions" and "a secondary detent profile defining a plurality of gear positions." No prior art of record reasonably discloses or suggests the present invention as defined by claim 10. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

(c) The Examiner rejected claims 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Reasoner et al. (US 6,230,579) in view of Kataumi (US 5,445,046) and

further in view of Osborne (US 5,277,077).

Dependent claims 16 and 17 are allowable as depending from allowable independent claim 10 as discussed above and for novel and non-obvious matter contained therein. As noted above, Osborn discloses a "feel" detent having a roller rather than a locking detent. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

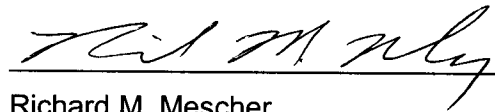
III. ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicant acknowledges that claims 18 to 20 are allowed.

IV. CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is found that that the present amendment does not place the application in a condition for allowance, applicant's undersigned attorney requests that the examiner initiate a telephone interview to expedite prosecution of the application. If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-2326.

Respectfully submitted,



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